

Before the  
Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of )  
 )  
Improving Communications Services for Native ) CG Docket No. 11-41  
Nations )  
 )

**ORDER**

**Adopted: May 16, 2011**

**Released: May 16, 2011**

**Revised Comment Date: June 20, 2011**

**Revised Reply Comment Date: August 4, 2011**

By the Chief, Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau:

1. On March 4, 2011, the Commission released a Notice of Inquiry seeking comment on a wide range of issues related to improving communications services for Native Nations, including a Native Nations Priority, a Native Nations Broadband Fund, adoption and utilization of communications services on Tribal lands, the need for a uniform definition of Tribal lands to be used agency-wide in rulemakings, and the need to strengthen consultation and coordination with Native Nations.<sup>1</sup> The *Native Nations NOI* sets deadlines for filing comments and reply comments at 45 and 90 days after publication of it in the Federal Register.<sup>2</sup> On April 5, 2011, a summary of the *Native Nations NOI* was published in the Federal Register.<sup>3</sup> Accordingly, the deadline for filing comments was set at May 20, 2011, and the deadline for filing reply comments was set at July 5, 2011.<sup>4</sup>

2. On May 11, 2011, the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation (Colville Tribes) submitted a Request for Extension of Time seeking a 30-day extension of the deadlines for all interested parties to submit comments and reply comments in response to the *Native Nations NOI*.<sup>5</sup> The Colville Tribes indicate that such an extension is warranted because it will enable the Colville Tribes and other Tribal Nations to help develop a more robust record in response to the *Native Nations NOI*, particularly concerning the many diverse issues raised.<sup>6</sup> The Colville Tribes also note that the FCC-Native Nations Broadband Task Force will hold its initial meeting in Washington, DC on May 24 and 25, 2011.<sup>7</sup> This

<sup>1</sup> *Improving Communications Services for Native Nations*, CG Docket No. 11-41, Notice of Inquiry, 26 FCC Rcd 2672 (2011) (*Native Nations NOI*).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> See 76 Fed. Reg. 18759 (Apr. 5, 2011).

<sup>4</sup> See *Office of Native Affairs and Policy Announces Deadlines for Comments on Native Nations Notice of Inquiry*, CG Docket No. 11-41, Public Notice, 26 FCC Rcd 5096 (CGB 2011).

<sup>5</sup> Letter from Michael O. Finley, Chairman, Colville Business Council, and Susie Allen, FCC-Native Nations Broadband Task Force Member, Colville Business Council, The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, to Geoffrey C. Blackwell, Chief, Office of Native Affairs and Policy, Federal Communications Commission (dated May 11, 2011) (Request for Extension of Time).

<sup>6</sup> *Id.*

<sup>7</sup> *Id.*

meeting will bring together Task Force members from Native Nations and Task Force members from the Commission to engage in government-to-government consultation and coordination on many matters, including the *Native Nations NOI*. The Colville Tribes state that Task Force members from Native Nations intend to use this opportunity to address specifically the matters raised in the *Native Nations NOI*.<sup>8</sup>

3. It is the policy of the Commission that extensions of time are not routinely granted.<sup>9</sup> However, such extensions may be warranted when, among other things, the additional time will serve the public interest.<sup>10</sup> In the instant proceeding, we find that providing the requested limited extension would be beneficial to the development of a complete record on the issues and that granting the extension of time requested by the Colville Tribes serves the public interest. We therefore extend the comment deadline to Monday, **June 20, 2011**, and the reply comment deadline to Thursday, **August 4, 2011**.

4. Accordingly, **IT IS ORDERED** that, pursuant to Sections 4(i) and 4(j) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. §§ 154(i) and (j), and Sections 0.141, 0.361, and 1.46 of the Commission's Rules, 47 C.F.R. §§ 0.141, 0.361, and 1.46, the Request for Extension of Time filed by the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation **IS GRANTED**, and the deadlines for filing comments and reply comments in response to the *Native Nations NOI* **ARE EXTENDED** to June 20, 2011 and August 4, 2011, respectively.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Joel G. Gurin  
Chief, Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau

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<sup>8</sup> *Id.*

<sup>9</sup> 47 C.F.R. § 1.46(a).

<sup>10</sup> See, e.g., *Service Rules for Advanced Wireless Services in the 2155-2175 MHz Band, Service Rules for Advanced Wireless Services in the 1915-1920 MHz, 1995-2000 MHz, 2020-2025 MHz and 2175-2180 MHz Bands*, WT Docket Nos. 04-356, 07-195, Order, 23 FCC Rcd 10527, 10528, para. 4 (WTB 2008); *Review of the Emergency Alert System*, EB Docket No. 04-296, Order, 25 FCC Rcd 1849 (PSHSB 2010).